

# News Messenger

Blacksburg

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Saturday, September 30, 2023

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USPS 016-490

\$1.00



## Mountain Valley Pipeline safety issues compounded with need for 911 first responder reclassification

Lori Graham  
Contributing writer

The Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) has been an ongoing project for many years to bring natural gas to parts of West Virginia and Virginia but has been met with citizens' concerns about safety and environmental impact.

Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) with the U.S. Department of Transportation has been conducting inspections for corrosion control, coating remediation, ultraviolet radiation, and movement of land-related issues, and overall impact on the environment. A Notice

The Pipeline and

See Pipeline, page 4

The Mountain Valley pipeline has been the subject of many protests at the site.

FILE PHOTO

## Housing choice voucher waiting list to open October 4

NEW RIVER VALLEY - The housing choice voucher waiting list is set to open on Oct. 4, 2023, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at virginiahousing.apply4housing.com.

Two hundred applicants will be placed on the waiting list using a random lottery.

New River Community Action assumed management of the Housing Connections voucher program for Craig, Floyd, Giles, Montgomery and Pulaski Counties and the City of Radford last year. The Housing Choice Voucher Program is the federal government's major program for assisting very low-income families, low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled with decent, safe, and affordable housing in the private market. Housing assistance is provided on behalf of the family or individual and allows you to find housing (single-family homes, townhouses, mobile homes, and apartments) that fits your needs.

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), eligibility for a housing

voucher is determined by the PHA based on the total annual gross income and family size and is limited to US citizens and specified categories of non-citizens who have eligible immigration status. In general, the family's income may not exceed 50% of the median income for the county or metropolitan area in which the family chooses to live. By law, a PHA must provide 75 percent of its voucher to applicants whose incomes do not exceed 30 percent of the area median income. Median income levels are published by HUD and vary by location.

If you or someone in your family is a person with a disability, and you require a specific accommodation in order to complete the waitlist application, please contact NRCA at (540) 381-8101. To learn more about the Housing Connections Voucher Program, visit: <https://www.housingconnectionsva.org/>

Submitted by New River Community Action



Dr. Caitlin Jewitt

PHOTO COURTESY OF LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

## Community forum to examine ranked-choice voting

Lori Graham  
Contributing writer

At a time when Americans are seeking ways to reduce political division, ranked-choice voting is an election method several states and localities are considering to encourage more collegial campaigning.

This year's Community Forum, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, Virginia Tech's Lifelong Learning Institute, and the NAACP-Montgomery Co-Radford City-Floyd Co Branch will explore

the option of ranked-choice voting through the perspective of two voting experts.

The forum is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 4, at 7 p.m. in Blacksburg's Town Council Chambers. The event is free and open to the public.

Liz White, executive director of UpVote Virginia, and Dr. Caitlin Jewitt, assistant professor of political science at Virginia Tech, will explain and analyze the electoral method of ranked-choice voting.

UpVote Virginia is a

nonpartisan organization promoting ranked-choice voting as the way to improve the structure of our electoral system and better reflect the will of voters.

Dr. Jewitt is recognized for her research on campaigns and elections, public opinion, political parties, and presidential primaries and caucuses. She is particularly interested in the institutional features of elections and their effects on voters, election outcomes, and candidate strategy.

With ranked-choice

See Voting, page 4

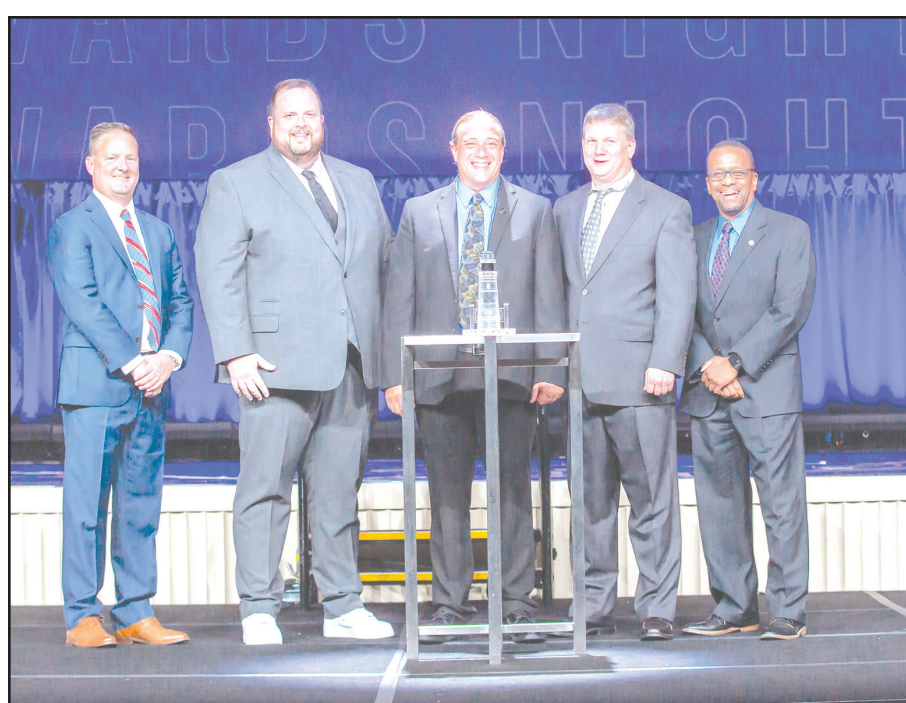


PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS BELL

Red Lobster Christiansburg General Manager Chris Bell (center) receives the Lighthouse Club Award in Washington DC from executives of the company.

## Red Lobster wins international Lighthouse Club Award

Heather Bell  
hbell@mainstreetnewspapers.com

CHRISTIANSBURG - Red Lobster in Christiansburg was recently honored with the company's Lighthouse Club Award for being ranked seventh in the company out of 673 stores.

The Lighthouse Club recognizes excellence in key areas of the business, including quality, service and cleanliness; actual versus planned sales; profits and lowest guest complaints.

Chris Bell, general manager of the Christiansburg restaurant, received the award at Red Lobster's annual conference in Washington D.C. Trin Tapanya, Chief Operating Officer for Red Lobster, lauded the winning general managers for their commitment to excellence.

I'm incredibly proud to announce this year's Lighthouse Club Winners that recognize our general managers and teams for not only demonstrating but living our commitment

See Award, page 4

## Board of Supervisors deny contractor storage yard permit in Preston Forest

A request by John and Stacy Lloyd for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow a contractor's storage yard, as defined in the zoning ordinance, on vacant land in the Preston Forest subdivision area of Blacksburg was unanimously denied by the Board of Supervisors during a regular meeting held Monday, Sept. 25, 2023.

The property is located at the intersection of Batts Road and Coal Bank Hollow Road, approximately 0.01 miles from the intersection of South Jefferson Forest Lane and Coal Bank Hollow Road. The land is 6.8 acres, zoned Agricultural (A-1) in the Mount Tabor Magisterial District, and currently lies in an area designated as Residential Transition in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan.

The Planning Commission had previously voted 8-1 in approval of the special use permit on Aug. 9 with additional conditions to be put in place by business owners of the tree service. Some of these conditions concerned vegetation screening, no exterior lighting, and that no more

than three vehicles in good working order, with tow-behinds, would be permitted.

Citizens shared concerns, but also support of the local business, with the board during the public hearing session of the meeting.

"I'm here tonight to ask you not to turn the cemetery, at the end of Jefferson Forest Drive into a commercial parking lot," Sylvia Wright of Blacksburg said. "My husband David and I are concerned about creeping commercialism in our subdivision."

Wright, like others that spoke, chose to move further outside of town to escape multi-dwelling and commercial properties that are going up.

One other citizen, and customer of Lloyd, spoke in support of his care and knowledge of the trees through his local business.

"He is making it possible for us to have big trees, which is really important for our climate and for our environment," Kimberly Homer of Blacksburg said.

John Lloyd was present and addressed the Board of Supervisors in response to some of the citizens of Preston Forest subdivision's concerns about aesthetics, safety, and the impact on property values. One

See Board, page 4

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Saturday, Sept. 30:

**Clothing Swap**  
At the Blacksburg Library; 1 – 3 p.m.  
Want a new wardrobe for free? Bring your gently used clothes to swap! Drop off items the week before the swap (or the day of) and be ready to swap for new-to-you clothes! Please make sure items are clean, wearable, and in good condition. We accept only gently used clothing and accessories. Please no undergarments, beauty samples, homegoods, etc. You do not have to bring items to swap, if you need something, please come and see what is available! There will be the opportunity to try things on - feel free to wear layers and utilize our public restrooms. This event is free and open to all ages and communities. Leftover items will be donated.

**SWVA Wildlife Center: Animal Ambassadors**  
At the Meadowbrook Library; 1-2 p.m. Southwest Virginia's Wildlife Center will bring some of their animal ambassadors and provide information about the wild animals living all around us. This event is sponsored by Shawsville Ruritan Club.

**Family Movie Matinee: Sharkboy & Lavagirl**  
At the Radford Public Library; 11 a.m. Come see "The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl" on the library's big projection screen! Rated PG; 93 minutes.

## Monday, Oct. 2:

**La hora del cuento en español / Spanish Storytime**  
At the Radford Public Library; 6:30 – 7 p.m. ¡Acompáñanos a disfrutar una hora de cuentos completamente en español! ¡No es necesario registrarse! / Join us for a storytime entirely in the Spanish language. No registration necessary.

## Tuesday, Oct. 3:

**Protecting Seniors from Spam and Scam Phone**  
At the Christiansburg Library; 11 a.m. Learn how to protect yourself or seniors in your life from spam and scam phone calls.

## Wednesday, Oct. 4:

**CommUNITY yoga for self-care for adults**  
At the Radford Public Library; 5:45- 6:45 p.m. Join Kelly McCoy of The Whole You for an all-level yoga class for adults. Learn poses to help strengthen and lengthen your muscles as well as some breathing and meditation techniques to help calm the nervous system. This class is free to the public and is funded by grant money through the Virginia Department of Health.

## Monday, Oct. 9:

**Radford City Council meeting**  
The Radford City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Radford Municipal Building, 10 Robertson St., Radford. See the agenda at www.radfordva.gov.

## Montgomery County Board of Supervisors meeting

Public meetings are the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St. in Christiansburg. Closed sessions begin at 6 p.m. if needed. Open sessions begin at 7:15 p.m. Citizens are invited to attend and allowed to speak at each meeting. All regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors are rebroadcast on Montgomery County Comcast and Shentel Channels 190 daily.

## Tuesday, Oct. 10:

**Blacksburg Town Council meeting**  
The council meets in regular session the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Roger E. Hedgepeth Chambers of the Blacksburg Municipal Building, 300 S. Main St. These meetings are open to the public and televised live on WTOB Channel 2.

## Christiansburg Town Council meeting

Regular Town Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall (100 E. Main Street). The public is welcome and encouraged to attend, with a citizen hearing time reserved at each meeting for residents to bring any matter they desire before the entire council.

## Tuesday, Oct. 17:

**Central Business Committee Meeting**  
The Christiansburg Central Business District Committee will meet at 5:30p.m. in the Administrative Conference Room of Christiansburg Town Hall.

## Thursday, Oct. 19:

**Blood Drive**  
The New River Health District will be hosting a blood drive on in the Community Room at the Montgomery Co. Health Department from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. We have set a goal of having 20

See **Events**, page 7

## ONLINE AUCTION

Ends Thursday, October 26th at 4 PM  
Wooded Tract of Land for Sale in Christiansburg VA  
TBD Mud Pike Rd., Christiansburg, VA 24073  
Bid Now at [VAAuctionPro.com](http://VAAuctionPro.com)



Check out this great opportunity to own a large tract of land just outside the Town of Christiansburg in Montgomery County. This +/- 5.13 acre property features public utilities and a newly completed survey. It has over 485' of frontage on Mud Pike Rd. The tract is mostly wooded. A1 zoning gives property multiple potential uses.

**Terms** - 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$5,000 required on day of sale. Close on or before December 11th, 2023. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence placing a bid. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, purchase contract and maps at [VAAuctionPro.com](http://VAAuctionPro.com).

**CONTACT - Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at**  
540-239-2585 or email [gallimore.matt@gmail.com](mailto:gallimore.matt@gmail.com)

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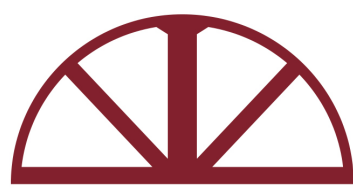
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# Blacksburg High School student named National Merit Scholarship semi-finalist

Annabelle B. Badgley, a student at Blacksburg High School, has been named a semi-finalist for a National Merit Scholarship.

Scholarship officials recently announced the names of more than 16,000 semifinalists nationwide in the 69th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

“These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,140 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million that will be offered next spring,” NMSC announced.

To be considered for a National Merit Scholarship award, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition. About 95 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain finalist standing, and approximately half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

Over 1.3 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants.

“The nationwide pool of semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state,” NMSC announced. “The number of semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state’s percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.”

To become a Finalist, the semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application, in which they provide information about the semifinalist’s academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF BHS

leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. A semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT or ACT scores that confirm the student’s earlier performance on the qualifying test.

Radford News Journal staff report



PHOTO COURTESY OF IDA OF NRV

First place team winners include Marcus Johnston, Kevin Stassin, Brayden Morris and Nick Delida.

# Intellectual Disabilities Agency thanks tournament participants

Intellectual Disabilities Agency of the New River Valley (IDA) wishes to thank the local community and businesses for their support with the 26th Annual IDA Golf Tournament that took place on Aug. 14.

The event was held at the beautiful Blacksburg Country Club golf course. Funds raised from the event will support IDA’s activities for persons with intellectual disabilities in the New River Valley. Programs provided include bingo; Stretchcize; cooking, craft and art classes; and seasonal dances. Advocacy for our clients and

social opportunities are also facilitated, including picnics and potluck events.

IDA is one of very few agencies in the New River Valley that provide services to this population and the annual IDA Golf Tournament is a major source of funding.

Earl Brown, President of the IDA Board of Directors, says, “The children and adults who participate with this agency will always need services and activities. IDA programs provide opportunities for clients to achieve a

See Golf, page 7

# Blacksburg candidates to speak at forum

Four candidates for Blacksburg Town Council – two who are on the official ballot and two who are running as write-ins – will discuss town issues during a Candidate Forum Thursday, Oct. 5, 7- 8:30 p.m.

The forum will be held in the Blacksburg Town Council Chambers at 300 S. Main St., Blacksburg.

The forum is sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the NAACP-Montgomery Co-Radford City-Floyd Co Branch. Local citizens who attend will be invited to submit questions to the candidates on town issues.

The candidates include incumbents Michael Sutphin and Jerry Ford Jr. who are on the official ballot as well as two candidates, Rick Johnson and Liam Watson, who are running as write-ins.

The Town Council has three vacancies so at least one of the two write-in candidates seems likely to be elected

to the council.

The Town Council race has already generated community debate and discussion about the town’s growth, the lack of affordable housing, how to cope with Virginia Tech’s growth and its impact on the town as well as other issues.

The four candidates will each have time for an opening statement and will then answer questions submitted by the audience. Each candidate will also have a closing statement.

Ford, one of two incumbents, represents the town on the New River Valley Passenger Rail Station Authority. His campaign statement calls for “development and redevelopment that occurs in a planned and reasonable manner guided by shared community values.”

Sutphin is running for his fourth term on the Town

Council. He came to Blacksburg in 2002 as a student and was first elected to the council at the age of 27. He supports “a wide range of capital projects that revitalize our downtown, expand our trail system and recreation amenities, make transportation improvements, and replace our aging water and sewer lines.”

Johnson, who spent over a dozen years as the director of Housing and Dining Services at Virginia Tech, said he decided to run after hearing about disappointment among some town citizens with how the current town council has voted on several development projects.

Watson, a Blacksburg native, has served on the town’s Planning Commission where his focus was on “making Blacksburg more accessible for working families, while also protecting what we love about our hometown.”

Submitted by the League of Women Voters


**Marketplace**


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### Legals - Montgomery County

#### NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing for Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 7:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter, at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to receive citizen comments on a proposed Ordinance Amending Chapter 2 Entitled Administration of the Code of the County of Montgomery, Virginia, Section 2-17 Cost Reimbursement for Emergency Medical Transport, by creating a category for billing based on the use emergency medical services by county residents and non-county residents. A copy of the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Administrator and is available 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday for public inspection or copying.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

F. Craig Meadows  
County Administrator

### Legals - Montgomery County

Chapter 2, Division 5, Section 2-107 of the Code of the County of Montgomery, Virginia Entitled Tax Exemption and Deferrals for Elderly and Handicapped by Increasing the Net Combined Financial Worth and the Income Limits to be Eligible for Relief”. A copy of the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Administrator and is available 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday for public inspection or copying.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

F. Craig Meadows  
County Administrator

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY ELECTION INFORMATION November 7, 2023 General Election

Registration Deadline: Monday, October 16, 2023 In-Person Early Voting at the MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF ELECTIONS 1546 North Franklin Street, Christiansburg, VA. September 22 – November 3, 2023 from 8:30am – 5pm In addition, we will be open from 9am to 5pm Saturday, October 28, 2023 and Saturday, November 4, 2023 Note: The last day qualified voters can apply for an absentee ballot by mail: Friday, October 27, 2023 by 5:00 PM A Ballot Drop Box will be available inside the Montgomery County Office of Elections from September 22, 2023 – November 6, 2023, during normal business hours. The Constitution of Virginia requires that in order to be

### Legals - Montgomery County

qualified to vote in the General & Primary Election you must be a citizen of the United States, be eighteen years of age on or before the next General Election, have domicile and a place of abode in Montgomery County and that you be registered in the precinct in which you reside. An acceptable ID will be required when you vote. A voter may show either voter registration confirmation documents, valid Virginia Driver’s License, valid United States Passport, or any other identification issued by the Commonwealth, one of its political subdivisions, or the United States; any valid student identification card issued by any institution of higher education located in the Commonwealth or any private school located in the Commonwealth; any valid student identification card issued by any institution of higher education located in the Commonwealth; any valid employer identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer’s business or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter. Contact the Montgomery County Office of Elections if you have any questions at 382-5741 or the Department of Elections at elections.virginia.gov. Connie Viar Director of Elections/General Registrar



### Legals - Montgomery County

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 & 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Planning Commission hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on October 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Planning Commission’s intention to act on the following request: A request by Shah Development, LLC (Agent: Foresight Design Services) to amend the proffered conditions and approved concept plan of the rezoning of the Preserve at Walnut Springs Major Subdivision, originally approved by the Board of Supervisors on March 11, 2019. The proposed amendments would allow for the construction of singlefamily attached dwellings (townhomes) and multi-family residential dwellings (apartments) in an area of the development previously approved for the construction of multi-family residential dwellings (apartments) only. The proposed amendments also increase the maximum allowed number of single-family attached dwellings (townhomes) in the development from one-hundred fifty-four (154) units to two hundred nine (209) units, and decrease the maximum allowed number of multi-family residential dwellings (apartments) from one hundred eight (108) units to eighty-four (84) units. The proposed amendments would

### Legals - Montgomery County

maintain the previously approved overall density of 2.185 units per acre. The property is located off of Price’s Fork Road (State Route 685), approximately 0.34 miles west of the intersection of Stratford View Drive (State Route 1145). The property is further identified as Tax Map Numbers 052-A-32, 52-1-20, 52-A4A, and 52-A-1A (Parcel IDs: 017474, 160511, 280553, and 280550), totaling 124.665 acres, currently zoned Planned Unit Development – Residential (PUD-RES) in the Price’s Fork Magisterial District. The property lies in an area designated as Village Expansion in the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan, and is further identified as LowDensity Residential in the Price’s Fork Village Plan. Copies of the proposed plans, applications, ordinances or amendments may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>

### Legals - Montgomery County

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Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 ; 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on October 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, Virginia, in order to hear citizen comments regarding the Board of Supervisors’ intention to act on the following Resolution: A resolution adopting the “Transportation Matters” master transportation plan for the County of Montgomery, Virginia to replace the existing transportation chapter of the 2025 Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan. The “Transportation Matters” plan provides recommendations to improve transportation infrastructure, increase safety, expand public transportation options, and strengthen funding applications for transportation projects throughout the unincorporated areas of Montgomery County. Copies of the “Transportation Matters” plan may be examined at the Department of Planning and GIS Services, County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Suite 2A, Christiansburg, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or at <http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/pendingapplications>

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# Award from page 1

to excellence through consistently delivering strong results and positively impacting our people and guests," said Tapanya. "Thank you for all your hard work, determination, vision and focus. It is leaders like you who make Red Lobster a special place to be."

Kyle McInturff, Director of Operations, Red Lobster, says the Christiansburg team's positive energy is inspiring. "I am so proud of the entire team at our restaurant in Christiansburg for achieving Red Lobster's Lighthouse Award, which is the most prestigious honor the company presents at the restaurant level," said McInturff. "Seeing the positive energy the team produces inside the restaurant

as well as the passion they put into both their wonderful food and guest service translate into such high recognition is very inspiring. Working with this team has been one of the great joys of my career."

Bell has been general manager of the Christiansburg location for the past two years. He said the award is the result of a team effort and a commitment to make each day better than the one before.

"The success of the Christiansburg Red Lobster is the result of an enormous team effort and I'm honored and humbled to lead such a talented and dedicated team," he said. "The strides made over the past couple

of years in food quality and guest service have been monumental. Every crew member is committed to a better performance each day than the previous one and the incremental progress toward excellence has been rewarded with loyalty from our guests."

"The pride we take in the job we do and the products we serve is what has led to the growth of this store and the crew is dedicated and driven to continually improve," Bell continued. "We feel that we have not yet reached our apex and work every day to try to reach out to every part of our community and won't rest until we make Red Lobster fans of them all. I am so deeply grateful to all of our guests for the support they



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS BELL

**Red Lobster team members (left to right) Kenzie Linkous, Chris Bell, Kenneth Mayes, Alexis Thompson, Anthony Russ, Alyssa Sackman, Hannah Delatos and Maggie Thompson show off the banner the restaurant received for winning the Lighthouse Club Award.**

have given us and to all the hard-working team members that have become beloved family members to me, and I

look forward to sharing ever greater successes with them over time." Red Lobster

Christiansburg has been open for more than 25 years and is located at 75 Pepper's Ferry Rd. NW.

# Board from page 1

concern was proper screening of the equipment parked on the lot in the subdivision.

"There are lots of pine trees there. Some of them are 10 to 15 foot; some of them are smaller," Lloyd said.

He went on to say that his trucks were newer models and that they work

9 am to 5 pm each day, during the time that children and families are typically not in the neighborhood.

"It has everything to do with the location, other than the business, no one thinks that it is a good idea," Supervisor Sarah Bohn said. "There should be other locations in the county

that should be more suitable than this." Two other special use permits were unanimously approved by the Supervisors during the meeting.

A request by RDH LLC for a Special Use Permit (SUP) was approved. This will allow a short-term tourist rental within a newly constructed one-

bedroom dwelling, located at 2157 Harding Rd., Blacksburg.

The approval of an additional request by Darrell Linkous for a SUP will allow a manufactured home on a vacant lot located within the R-3 Residential Zoning District, located at 425 Briggs Rd. in Shawsville.

# News Messenger

Established 1869

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The News Messenger is a newspaper of, by and for the people of Montgomery County. We encourage letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached for verification. All letters will be verified before publication. We reserve the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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# Voting from page 1

voting, voters rank all candidates in an election rather than choosing one. Ranked choice voting is described as a means to a more representative and inclusive government and a way to reduce negative campaigning. The need for costly runoff elections is bypassed because the candidate who garners more than 50% of the vote wins. If no one gets a majority of votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is dropped and his or her votes are redistributed to the other candidates. Voters whose candidate is eliminated then have their second choice counted.

Ranked-choice voting was used this spring in Arlington in the Democratic primary, but the Arlington County Board decided not to use the increasingly popular voting system for November's general election. The Democratic primary was the first publicly run ranked-choice election in Virginia, offering a highly visible test for a voting system that's been used in a growing number of races around the country.

*Submitted by the League of Women Voters*

# Pipeline from page 1

of Proposed Safety Order was issued on Aug. 11, 2023, to the Equitrans Midstream Corporation for necessary safety actions needed to take place for the Mountain Valley Pipeline. More detailed information on their findings can be found www.phmsa.dot.gov.

An additional concern for some time is the need to classify 911 telecommunicators as first responders, which would provide additional funding, benefits, and compensation to essential personnel in our communities. Individuals addressed the Board of Supervisors with their concerns at the Sept. 25 regular supervisors meeting.

Anita Puckett of Blacksburg said, "Right now, they are classified as clerical and there are a lot of benefits and compensation they cannot get, and we cannot apply for grants in order for them to get proper technologies to respond very quickly and fully to especially the kinds of major disasters that may happen under this pipeline."

Irene Leach of Elliston said, "For the last 10 years, I have been learning about pipelines...I'm really concerned about the safety."

According to Board of Supervisors Chair, Sherri Blevins, the reclassification of 911 telecommunicators has been difficult to meet with governmental change in the General Assembly for some time.

"Our 911 dispatchers are literally the first ones that answer that call," Blevins said. "They are the First Responders. Deborah O'Brien explained to us and how that they've been for years trying to get this passed and changed in the General Assembly for reclassification."

Deborah O'Brien is the Operations Manager at New River Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority, also referred to as NR911. Jason Milburn serves as Director of the department.

Additional concerns about communication in the face of an emergency or disaster were also mentioned at the meeting. Pipeline locations in rural areas where there is no cell signal could mean a longer time to convey emergency information to citizens.

Linda Majors, "They need to

turn off the valves when there is an explosion so that they just burn the gas between the valves rather than 100 miles of gas, the valves are like 30 miles apart" Linda Majors said. "The problem is with Mainline Valve 26; nobody has cell service down there."

Citizens also called for more information to be shared with the public in preparing them for potential life-threatening situations, if they were to occur, with the pipeline.

Georgia Deremis of Blacksburg said, "Many of you know that we no longer have the avenue of going through the EPA to have the environmental regulations, but the Mountain Valley Pipeline is required to do safety trainings in the communities where it goes through. I haven't seen any of that happening."

In other business during the meeting, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a National First Responders Day that will happen on Oct. 28, 2023, and will include 911 operators along with all fire, rescue, emergency services, and law enforcement.

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
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60					61					62		
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- CLUES ACROSS**
- Indicates number of days
  - When you hope to get there
  - Hairstyle
  - Black (Spanish)
  - Expresses pleasure
  - Away from wind
  - Tech pros organization
  - Wile E. Coyote is familiar with it
  - Clean
  - Saints' signal caller
  - A way to hunt
  - Poetries
  - Automobile
  - Secondary school (abbr.)
  - Indicates before
  - Male parent
  - Short-billed rails
  - It pays to keep yours
  - On occasion
  - David \_\_, US playwright
  - Slang for cigarette
  - Vaccine developer
  - Returned to health
  - Toni Morrison novel
  - Period between eclipses
  - Veterans battleground
  - Gang
  - A radio band
  - Jaws of a voracious animal
  - Elaborate garments
  - Chinese province
  - Checks
  - Horizontal passage
  - Steep hillsides
  - Fertility god
  - Dried-up
  - Signs a name
  - Winger, actress
  - German river
  - Gov't lawyers
  - Take something somewhere
- CLUES DOWN**
- Blyton, children's author
  - Colleague
  - "The African Queen" writer
  - Crater on the moon
  - Toward
  - Overhang
  - Identifies something close at hand
  - Sign language
  - Unbroken views
  - Ancient Greek City
  - Stretch out to grasp
  - Alcohols that are unfit for drinking
  - Humorous stories
  - Long song for a solo
  - Barrels per day (abbr.)
  - City of Lights
  - A place to sleep
  - Advanced degree (abbr.)
  - The back
  - Furniture-makers Charles and "Ray"
  - Songs to a lover
  - Gland secretion
  - 10 meters
  - Disfigure
  - Stores grain
  - Sacred book of Judaism
  - Catch
  - Promise
  - Challenges
  - Russian space station
  - Banking giant
  - Served as an omen
  - Drenches
  - Type of sword
  - Minor planet
  - Messenger ribonucleic acid
  - Japanese ankle sock
  - Obtain in return for services
  - Waste matter
  - A proposal to buy at a specified price
  - Unit of loudness

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# OBITUARIES

## Clark, Sr., Chimer Davis

Chimer Davis Clark, Sr. 83, went home to be with his heavenly Father Sept. 23, 2023. A funeral service will be held Monday, Oct. 2, 2023 at 12:30 p.m. at Tar Landing Baptist Church in Jacksonville with Rev. Robert Williams officiating.

A committal service with military honors will follow at Coastal Carolina State Veterans Cemetery in Jacksonville.

Chimer will be remembered for his long and dutiful service to his country in United States Air Force. He achieved the proud rank of Captain. He was a faithful member of Tar Landing Baptist Church.

Chimer was preceded in death by his wife; Joyce Marie Peterson Clark; his parents, Junior Lee Clark and Annie Gertrude Blankenship

Clark; two brothers and two sisters.

Chimer is survived by one daughter, Jessica Marie Blackburn of Hampstead; one son, Chimer D. Clark Jr. of Morehead City; three sisters, Mabel D. Hamlin of Christiansburg, Maxine C. Dudley of Christiansburg, and Sadie M. Estes of Blacksburg; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends on hour prior to the service from 11:30 to 12:30 p.m. at Tar Landing Baptist Church in Jacksonville.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association and America Heart Association.

Electronic condolences may be left for the family at www.jonesfh.org.

## Dishon, Roxie Helen Long

Roxie Helen Long Dishon, 97, her parents and all her siblings and their spouses, brothers, Warren Harrison Long and wife Velva, and Nathan Abraham Long and wife Melba, and sister, Mary Long Young and husband Clifton (Snookie).



departed this life on Monday, Sept. 25, 2023.

She was born April 21, 1926, to parents Cooper Kunkle Long and Nancy (Nanny) Duncan Long. She grew up on the Long family farm on the banks of Little River in Snowville. She attended Green Hill School (Snowville, Va.) and graduated from Draper High School.

She married Eddie Vernon Dishon, also of Snowville, on Dec. 23, 1946. They spent most of their years together living in a house on West Main St. in Radford. Eddie departed this life in 2002.

Roxie was a hard worker and loved spending time in her garden during the growing season and quilting in her basement in the Winter. She made countless quilts for family and friends and always enjoyed cooking a home-cooked meal for those she loved.

Roxie was preceded in death by

Collins and husband James, Donna Long Conklin and husband Michael Nancy Young Newton, and Betty Kaye Smith and husband Curtis; grand nephews and grand nieces, Derek Long, Cooper Long, Jason Worrell, Clifton Phillips, Patrick Phillips, Kimberly Wright, and Heather Smith; many great grand nephews and nieces; and many close family friends to cherish her memory as well.

Roxie was a member of Gethsemane Baptist Church in Radford.

A special thanks to the Caregivers at Pulaski Health and Rehab.

See Obituaries, page 6

www.montcova.com

### ANGLICAN CATHOLIC

**St. Peter the Apostle Anglican Church**, 230 W. First St., Christiansburg, VA. Fr Peter Geromel OHI Th.M., Vicar, Fr. Alex Darby, "Associate", 540-382-0432/540-270-9166. Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist followed by Christian Education and refreshments. Holy Communion most Thursdays at 12 Noon, other Holy Days as announced. Traditional services use the 1928 Book of Common Prayer and 1940 Hymnal. Handicapped accessible. All are welcome. Come worship with us! Website: www.stpetersacc.org. Follow us on Facebook

**St. Philip's Anglican Church**, 306 Progress Street, NE, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060, (540) 552-1771, www.stphilipsblacksburg.org. Reverend Fr. Wade Miller, Priest. Eucharist Sundays at 11am and Wednesday's at 12pm.

**St. Thomas Anglican Church** - located at 4910 Hubert Rd, NW Roanoke, Va. Traditional Liturgical Lenten Services, Sunday at 10:30 am. Call (540) 589-1299 or visit www.sttofc.org for midweek masses and events. (In Roanoke, go E on Hershberger, L on Hubert to 4910).

### BAPTIST

**First Baptist Church on 3rd Ave.**, 215 Third Ave at the corner with Downey St. We nurture meaningful connections to God and others through worship, spiritual growth, and community ministry. We celebrate the dignity and worth of all persons, created in the image of God. Sunday Bible Study Groups - 9:45, Sunday Worship - 11:00. Website: fbcradford.org 540-639-4419. Worship is in-person and live-streamed on Facebook and on our YouTube channel: First Baptist Church Radford.

**Trinity Community Church**, 1505 N. Franklin Street, C'burg. John Altizer, Lead Pastor, Brian Cockram, Associate Pastor, 382-8121. Worship at 10:45 a.m., Outreach Ministries - 6:00p.m. Wednesday, Growth Groups - 5:00p.m. Sunday, Youth and Children's Ministry - 5:00p.m. Sunday, www.trinitycburg.org

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Blacksburg Church of Christ**, 315 Eakin St., 552-1331. Sun. Bible Classes 9:30 a.m., Sun. Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed. Bible classes, 7 p.m., Outreach Minister Curt Seright, Dean Meadows, Campus Minister.

**Faith Christian Church of Christ**, 305 3rd Street, Christiansburg, David Rhudy, Minister, 382-4628, Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am; Evening Worship 6:30 pm; Wednesday night Bible Study for Women and Men 6:30 pm. We welcome you to any and all of our services.

### CHURCH OF GOD

**New Hope Church of God**, 1404 Mud Pike Rd., C'Burg. Rev. T. Michael Bond, pastor, 731-3178. Sun. School 10 a.m., Worship 10:50 a.m., 6 p.m. Thurs., 7:00 p.m.

**West Radford Church of God**, 1824 West Main Street, Radford, VA 24141, Sunday School- 10:00A.M. Morning Worship- 11:00A.M., Children's Church 11:00A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00P.M., Wednesday Night - 7:00P.M., Pastor Danny Newman, Church Office - 540-639-6562 or 804- 921-0828.

### CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

**Christiansburg Church of the Brethren**, 310 South Franklin Street. Pastor: Hal Sonafank, 1-336-583-4822. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Morning Worship 11 a.m.; Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Website: www.christiansburgcob.org. A loving family, fueled by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God's Word, and delivering Jesus forgiveness and love to all people. Come as you are... you are welcomed!

### (DOC - DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

**Snowville Christian Church**, 5436 Lead Mine Rd., Hiwassee, VA 24347, Pastor: Jerry King, Website: www.SnowvilleChristianChurch.com (and Facebook), Office: 540-633-3761, Email: office@SnowvilleChristianChurch.com, Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 a.m., Sunday School: 10:00 a.m., Thursday Bible Study: 6:00 p.m., We are: "Inspiring hope, helping people grow their faith, and sharing God's love with others!"

### ECKANKAR

**Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom**, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. The Roanoke Eckankar Center is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. A spiritual event is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Since contracting COVID-19 may still be possible, please take the health steps that are best for you. It is appreciated that by attending you are taking responsibility for your own health. Visit www.eck-va.org, www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences \* Group\* or call 540-353-5365 for other Eckankar programs and for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar can lead you to spiritual freedom.

### EPISCOPAL

**Grace Episcopal Church**, 210 Fourth Street Radford. Welcoming and accepting, we have been a part of the Radford community for more than 130 years. ALL ARE WELCOME. Grace offers an 8:00am Contemplative

# Montgomery County

## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

### All Together

Read Numbers 30:1 through 31:54

The story is told of an anthropologist studying an African tribe. Placing a basket of sweets under a tree, he had the tribe's children line up some distance away. He told them that the first to reach the candy would get the whole basket, and he shouted, "Go!" The children immediately linked arms and ran as one to the tree, where they all enjoyed the treats. Astonished, the anthropologist asked for an explanation. "We can't be happy," they answered, "if one of us is sad."

God repeatedly encouraged Israel to see themselves as one united people. They were to

all share His blessings, not just a privileged few.

"Divide the spoils equally between the soldiers who took part in the battle and the rest of the community" (Numbers 31:27).

God wants that same sense of community to permeate His Church. We have talents, financial resources, and time the Lord has generously given us. How can we share them with others? How can we use them to lift up the name of Jesus in this world?

Thought for Today: Everything God has given you was intended to bless the world.

Quicklook: Numbers 31:25-31

**If your church is not listed and if you are interested, call Wendi Craig at 276-340-2445 or email at advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com**

Eucharist and a 10:30am Eucharist with organ music and a choir, with refreshments served afterwards. The 10:30am service is also available on YouTube for those unable to leave their house. Find us on Facebook and www.graceradford.org.

**St Thomas Episcopal Church**, 103 East Main Street, Christiansburg VA, 24073. Worship and communion at 10:00 a.m., each Sunday, followed by hospitality coffee and Adult Sunday Adult Seminar. Our service is also streamed. Contact for more info: mystthomasoffice@yahoo.com. http://www.stthomaschristiansburg.dioswva.org

### LUTHERAN

**Luther Memorial Lutheran Church ELCA**, 600 Prices Fork Rd, Blacksburg. Weekly Online Worship at www.lmlc.org. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation that welcomes and affirms all people just as they are. For information on Bible studies and Wednesday Vespers, email lutheremorialblacksburg@gmail.com, or contact the church office, (540) 951-1000. Rev. Monica Weber, pastor.

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church ELCA**, 1845 Cambria St NE, Christiansburg. Worship each Sunday at 10 am, in person and online at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMsB-gbyjmV5ce9mr43dbCw. Please visit our website at www.oslc-cburg.org and our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/oslcchristiansburg to learn more about us. Little Free Pantry and Little Free Library located in our parking lot. Pastor Joshua L. Copeland; church office 540-382-2223.

**St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road**, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Worship service each Sunday at 10 AM, Sunday School 9 AM. We are a community of God's people where people gather for worship, learning and service. Visitors and new members are always WELCOME! Google comments: "Wonderful, welcoming congregation...A

place where all are truly welcome... Nice, friendly, competent staff." You will like our minister, The Rev. Michelle L. Stramiello. Her previous service was as Family Faith Formation Director at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN, Pastor of St Matthew Lutheran Church, Paducah, KY, and Hospice Chaplain in Largo, FL. St. Michael started and administers Micah's Backpack which has great community impact, Micah's Soup for Seniors, Micah's Garden, Closet, and Mini Pantry. Also, partnering with Rainbow Riders and Total Action for Progress, we opened the first Early Childhood Head Start in our community (6 weeks to age 3), and have numerous other programs including a Justice & Mercy Fund providing assistance for those needing emergency assistance with critical bills. Further St. Michael sponsors an awesome Scouting program of Boy & Girl Scout Troops, Venture Scouts for older youth, and a new Cub Pack for girls & boys kindergarten - 5th grade. Directions: From Price's Fork Road, turn onto Merrimac Road and St. Michael is 3/10ths of a mile down on the left. For more information about any of our activities: Phone 540 951-8951. Email hope@stmlc.us or visit our Website www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

### MULTI-CULTURAL

**NON-DENOMINATIONAL Christian Growth Center**, 1850 Electic Way, Christiansburg, VA 24073 (beside Hubbell Lighting). Sunday Worship: 9:30am Prayer, 10:00am Service \*Nursery Available. Lead Pastor: Todd Hallinan. Founding Pastor: Todd Sowell. Mission: Sow, Grow, & Go Sow Faith! Grow in Righteousness! Go into all the world in the authority of the believer! 540-382-2908.

### PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

**Compassion Church**, 1820 Second Street, Radford, 639-6287, Our music is passionate, our worship is real, and Pastor Chandler Jones brings relevant messages for everyone at any place on their journey,

Sunday Worship Experience at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Wednesday Family Night at 7 PM, Children Ministry provided for all services. Our vision is to see all Saved Freed. Restored. Fulfilled. Find us on facebook and Instagram

**Merrimac Pentecostal Holiness Church**, Rev. Richard Hall (540) 552-7194. pastorhall29@gmail.com. Sunday School at 10 a.m. and morning worship is 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

**Piedmont Pentecostal Holiness Church**, 5007 Jewell Dr., Shawsville Va. Sunday morning service 11am. Pastor Tim Clyburn. 8 miles from Shawsville Rt 460, on Alleghany Spring Rd.

**Walton Pentecostal Holiness Church**, 4003 Morning Glory Rd., off Walton Rd. on Rt. 114. 731-1755. Lee Sarver, pastor. Sun. School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wed., 7 p.m.

### UNITED METHODIST

**Asbury United Methodist Church**, 500 Stuart Street, Christiansburg. 540-382-0743. Rev. G. Lance Presley. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

**Central Church**, 803 Wadsworth Street, Radford. 639-3529. 8:30 a.m. Sunday Services: 8:30am; 9:45am Sunday School; and 11:00a.m. Child care is provided. www.centralmethodistchurch.com.

**St. Paul United Methodist Church**, 220 W. Main St., C'Burg. Rev. Mike Derflinger (540) 382-2410. Sunday Worship 10 a.m., Sunday School 9 a.m. Live streaming Sunday Service - www.twitch.tv/stpaulumc

### WESLEYAN

**Christ Wesleyan Church**, 525 Harkrader Street, Christiansburg. Public Worship service at 11:00 AM. Sunday School for adults - 10:00 AM. Pastor: Gale Janofski 540-510-0952. The building is totally handicapped accessible. Website: christwesleyanchurch.org

# Virtual solar system transforms young learners into astronauts

BLACKSBURG - Blast off into space and explore the solar system through a unique virtual experience that sends users into orbit. With support of a National Science Foundation grant, a team of developers in the Applied Research in Immersive Experiences and Simulations (ARIES) program in University Libraries is using virtual reality to develop an interactive universe.

In this experience, users become virtual astronauts and move through space to visit all of the celestial bodies in our solar system.

"The purpose of this program is to create a virtual reality experience for young learners to engage with STEM content that is inclusive and comfortable in a way that allows for socially constructed learning," said Todd Ogle, executive director of ARIES.

## A new method of exploration

Instead of using virtual reality headsets, this experience utilizes handheld tablets that serve as windows into the virtual space.

"When you're wearing virtual reality goggles, you can't engage directly with anyone else in the space with you. You can't see them. You can't talk directly to them in an easy or natural way. We wanted learners to be able to use normal social interaction as

part of the learning experience," Ogle said.

The virtual environment consists of a 30-by-30-foot space with four devices that track the location and orientation of tablet computers used by the students. Within this virtual environment, young learners can explore the solar system in pairs or solo, interacting with the content, the teacher, and one another while doing so.

## Addressing misconceptions about space

The program's developers created an immersive experience that accurately represents how the solar system functions. This means myth-busting some popular misconceptions.

"There are a lot of ideas that students have such as how big all of the planets are and how close they are to each other as well as how the moon phases truly work," said Matthew Gallagher, computer engineering major and immersive developer on the project.

Users are virtually placed in the true-to-size solar system. When accurately presented, planets are impossible to see. The sun, which only takes up two pixels on the screen, is the only object visible to the human eye. To make sense of the black void, the developers placed arrows to point to where



A young learner journeys through the solar system in a virtual experience created by ARIES.

PHOTO BY KELSEY BENGTON FOR VIRGINIA TECH

planets would be in their orbits.

After the actual scale is established, the celestial bodies are enlarged to a size more supportive of active learning. Users are then placed into different scenes, such as the phases of the moon or the mechanism behind the ocean tides, finally having an opportunity to build their own planet.

"The kids love the planet-builder feature. They get to pick different attributes like whether it's a rocky planet or a gas giant, orbit velocity, and where it is placed in our solar system," said computer science major and immersive developer

Clara McDaniel. Collaboration is key

The creation of the virtual solar system requires collaborative efforts across Virginia Tech and beyond: Sang Won Lee, principal investigator, computer science; Todd Ogle, co-principal investigator, University Libraries; Myounghoon Jeon, co-principal investigator, industrial and systems engineering; Phyllis Newbill, co-principal investigator, Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology; Chelsea Lyles, co-principal investigator, Student Affairs; and Katherine Brooks, director of operations, Science Museum of Western

Virginia. Working in

collaboration with the principal investigators and under the supervision of Sarah Tucker, program coordinator for ARIES, a team of students from disciplines across the university developed the program, incorporating physics, instructional systems design, and art along the way: Matthew Gallagher, computer engineering, Class of 2025; Leah Ican, computer science, Class of 2025; Clara McDaniel, computer science, Class of 2025; Atlas Vernier '23, industrial and systems engineering and French; Macey Cohn '23, computer science; Shane Bennett,

computer science, Class of 2025; Priyanka Nair '23, computer science; Karina Springer, graphic design, Class of 2024; Alayna Ricard '22, creative technologies; and Nayha Pochiraju '22, creative technologies.

## Every solar system needs a galaxy to call home

The virtual solar system is still in its developmental stages, but it is slated to be completed in the fall of 2024. Once finished, it will reside in the Science Museum of Western Virginia as an interactive exhibit.

Ann Brown for Virginia Tech

# State police investigates death of Elliston man

At the request of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, the Virginia State Police, Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Salem Division, is conducting an investigation into the death of male subject on Crozier Drive in Elliston.

The incident occurred on Sunday, Sept. 24, 2023, when Deputies attempted to speak with a suspicious male walking on Crozier Court in Montgomery County. As deputies approached the white male, subject ran on foot behind a residence. Officers gave chase. The subject crossed Crozier Drive onto the property of East Montgomery High School. As the

officers caught up to the subject, the male produced a handgun and fired a single shot. Officers attempted life saving measures, but the male subject died at the scene.

There is no evidence the officers discharged their firearms. A handgun was recovered at the scene, and no officers were injured in the incident.

The remains were transported the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for identification.

Submitted by the Virginia State Police

Submit letters to the editor to editor@ourvalley.org

www.montcova.com

# Obituaries

from page 5

A graveside service to celebrate her life was held Friday, Sept 29 at Highland Memorial Gardens in Dublin. She was buried next to her

husband Vernon as well as her parents and siblings.

The family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home in Radford.

## Rector, Charmaine Faye

Charmaine Faye Rector, 103, of Radford, went home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023.

She passed into her everlasting life, peacefully at home, under the loving care of her daughters. Charmaine loved her church, Fairlawn Grace Brethren, where she worshipped for over 60 years. She lived a simple life of service working and doing for others. She became involved with making blankets for the Operation Linus Project, filling numerous hours edging well over 500 blankets to be given to children in the hospital. That was a blessing to her, as well as the children. Charmaine was preceded in death by her husband, Edgar Lee Rector; parents, William Mastin and Laura Carner Paisley; and her daughter, Thelma Jean Halsey.

Survivors include her daughters, Peggy Shelton (Ken), Linda Hypes, Hilda Farmer (John) and Wanda Thomas; son, Jerry Rector; grandchildren, Trina Burton, Cindy Newby (Ken), Nita Criner (Russ), Brian Shelton, Keith Roberts (Amy), Lisa Marshall (Keith) and Lori

11 great-grandchildren; 14 great great-grandchildren; brother, Larry Paisley (Louise); and numerous other family members and friends.

The family will receive friends 1 - 2 p.m. Monday, Oct. 2, 2023, at the Mullins Funeral Home in Radford. Funeral services will begin at 2 p.m. with Pastor Roy Glass, III officiating. Interment will follow in West View Cemetery in Radford.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN, 38105.

The family would like to thank Pastor Roy for traveling from Ohio to officiate the service, Dr. Judy and Hospice for their help and guidance with Mom's care. During her journey home, we were told several times that she was a strong woman and that is how we remember our mom, strong and faithful to the end. She is loved and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

The Rector family is in the care of Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.



## Swett, Wilmer "Chuck"

Wilmer "Chuck" Swett, 90, formerly of Radford, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023, at Heritage Hall in Rich Creek.

He was a U. S. Army veteran having served during the Korean Conflict. He was preceded in death by his parents, Purcell and Ruthie Swett.

Survivors include a son, Bobby Ray Hunt; two grandchildren; his sister, Ellen Locklear of Concord, N.C.; brothers, Lathan Swett of Greensboro, N.C.,

Bobby Swett of Pembroke, N.C., and Purcell "Jr" Swett of Fairmont, N.C.; and many nieces and nephews.

A graveside service with full military honors was held Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023, at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin with Rev. Dr. Paul Lane officiating.

The Swett family cares for the Mullins Funeral Home & Crematory in Radford.





PHOTO COURTESY OF HUDSON CROWE

Hudson Crowe begins his journey at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

## Something to Crowe about

*Radford grad enters Royal Conservatoire of Scotland*

RADFORD - Hudson Crowe has landed overseas in the middle of a dream.

The 2023 Radford University graduate in Music is still a bit stunned—and thankful—to have been chosen for one of the most prestigious and selective degree programs in the world. Over the next year, Crowe will pursue a Master's in Musical Theater at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland with a focus on Music Directing.

So just how selective is the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland?

It is considered a top five school in the world for performing arts and may only accept a few students each year for the musical theater directing program.

"I knew sending in an application was a little bit of a long shot," Crowe said. "I didn't have any perspective of where any of my abilities ranked against other musicians and directors around the world, so anything could have happened."

Then, he got a call back for an in-person audition in Glasgow just a few days before graduation last spring. He spent the first part of his summer in intense preparation for this once in a lifetime opportunity.

"I made sure to be as overprepared as possible," Crowe said, wanting to present the most competitive audition they had ever seen.

"I think going into the audition with the mindset of achieving a level of excellence that you haven't achieved before can truly yield excellent results."

Crowe said he had great support from the faculty and had experiences during his college education that gave him confidence in his ability.

In addition to class work, Crowe participated in ensembles, took advantage of research opportunities, worked in the Roanoke area as a church music director, and got experience regionally as a musical theater pianist. He even apprenticed as a conductor with Opera Roanoke.

Dr. Matt Cataldi, Assistant Professor in the Radford Music Department, is not particularly surprised that Crowe

made the cut. The two worked together to prepare Crowe for his application and audition, and Crowe says Dr. Cataldi helped him in many ways, especially conceptually.

In turn, Cataldi describes his former student as a person with the enviable problem of being incredibly good at several things.

"He is not only a talented pianist and percussionist," Cataldi noted. "He is also an accomplished conductor, a published composer, a seasoned researcher and a brilliant scholar and teacher."

Department Chair Dr. Wayne Gallops concurred.

"Hudson is an extremely versatile musician," he explained. "We're sure his career as a musical theater director will bloom with this opportunity to study at the Royal Conservatoire."

Crowe says he expects challenges, but has always wanted to study abroad, and will feel at home studying the art form that is closest to his heart.

"Although I have been gathering real-world experience in directing musical theater, I still feel that I have much to learn," he said.

"One of the great things about this program at RCS is that they throw you into the deep end with non-stop directing projects all year."

Crowe's first term began on Sept. 25. The master's is granted after successfully completing four consecutive terms over the course of one calendar year with only a week or two between each.

He'll work with students, faculty, and community members at the Royal Conservatoire in Glasgow, London and elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

Crowe says that after he completes his program, he'd like to work as a director in London's West End musical theater scene and eventually move to New York City.

"But who knows - my mind could completely change on the first day of classes," he notes.

"In short, I'm not quite sure what I will do after I complete the degree, but I'm okay with that for now."

*Sean Kotz for Radford University*

# New River Valley Housing Trust Fund awards \$1.8 million in affordable housing funding in towns of Pulaski and Blacksburg

RADFORD – A new source of funding will assist in the construction of two affordable housing developments in the New River Valley. Since the fall of 2022, the New River Valley Regional Commission has been working closely with public and private stakeholders throughout the region to create the New River Valley Housing Trust Fund (NRVHTF). This locally controlled source of funds will allow the region to catalyze much needed housing for its residents.

In late August, two inaugural NRVHTF funding awards were made: 1) \$850,000 to Landmark Development for the Claremont Apartments project in the Town of Pulaski and 2) \$950,000 to Community Housing Partners for the Legacy on Main project in the Town of Blacksburg. These awards were made as 30-year, 1% interest loans, and the two developments will create a total of 106 units of affordable rental housing in the New River Valley. Funding for the NRVHTF is being piloted with grant funding from Virginia Housing's Planning District Commission Housing Development program.

"We are excited to work with our Economic Development Authority, the Town of Pulaski, the NRV Regional Commission, the NRV Housing Trust Fund and other partners to support Landmark's redevelopment project of the Claremont Elementary School that will support the housing needs of the NRV and ultimately help Pulaski County reach its goal of 40-By-30 (40,000 citizens by the year 2030)," stated Laura Walters, Chair of the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors. "We are currently working with numerous partners to successfully repurpose a total of nine former or discontinued Pulaski County Public School facilities, with Claremont being the fifth in line for reuse."

"The Town of Pulaski has been actively investing in its infrastructure, recreation, and other quality of life amenities, and the Claremont project adds much needed

housing in the Town while giving an old school a new life," says Pulaski Town Mayor, Shannon Collins. "This will make a huge difference for anyone who wants to live in Pulaski but has not been able to find housing."

Town of Blacksburg Mayor, Leslie Hager-Smith said, "Any time we create an opportunity for quality affordable housing in Town is a success. Affordable housing development, especially in the current real estate environment, takes a village of partners, and the Town is excited for the addition of a new funding partner in the New River Valley Housing Trust Fund."

"The New River Valley has a long track record of taking on initiatives regionally and collaboratively, and a regional approach to housing is no different. While each of our communities have unique priorities for supporting their housing needs, all housing types and styles are needed to provide for our residents and our workforce," says Kevin Byrd, Executive Director of the Regional Commission. "These first funding awards mark a turning point for the region to create a tailor-made program that addresses the region's housing needs."

Chief Executive Officer of Virginia Housing, Susan Dewey, says, "Virginia Housing is pleased to see another success story from the Planning District Commission Housing Development grant program. The New River Valley has approached their funding in a truly innovative way, and Virginia Housing is proud to play a vital role in the New River Valley realizing its long-term regional housing goals."

The Regional Commission is now pursuing long-term sustainability of the Housing Trust Fund through public and private investment. If interested in contributing to the Fund, please contact Jennifer Wilsie, Director of Housing, at [jwilsie@nrvc.org](mailto:jwilsie@nrvc.org).

## Golf

from page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF IDA OF NRV

Three generations of the Blaszk family and their friend, Dave Burton, enjoy the golf tournament.

more balanced life, increasing their self-esteem and social skills."

For additional information about IDA and about upcoming activities, please contact [Denise@idanrv.org](mailto:Denise@idanrv.org) or

text 540-381-0310, or visit the IDA website at [www.idanrv.org](http://www.idanrv.org).

*Submitted by Intellectual Disabilities Agency of the New River Valley*

www.montcova.com

## Events

from page 2

donors for the day and need your assistance. Donors of all blood types are urgently needed now to ensure patients at hospitals across the country continue to receive critical medical care. Each donor for this drive will receive a \$15 Amazon gift card as a thank you for your donation. Register at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

### On-going:

#### Hydrant Testing

The Town of Blacksburg will test fire hydrants in the Southwest Quadrant of Town between Sept. 12 – Oct. 5. Hydrant testing can cause temporary pressure fluctuations and discolored water. These conditions will subside after the testing is completed. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Town of Blacksburg Engineering Department at (540) 443-1300.

#### Market Square Jam

Held Wednesdays, June through September, in Blacksburg on the corner of Draper Road and Roanoke Street; 7 – 9 p.m. Catering to traditional Old-Time music, Blacksburg's Market Square Jam brings musicians together to pick a tune, enjoy fun times with friends and family, and take in all that downtown Blacksburg has to offer. Blacksburg's Market Square Jam is an official Crooked Road affiliated venue that provides fun and entertainment.

#### Blacksburg Farmers Market

Hours now through October: Wednesdays 2 – 6 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Located at Market Square Park, on the corner of Roanoke Street and Draper Road in downtown Blacksburg. Features growers of locally grown produce and meats, alongside

artisans of baked goods, prepared foods, cheese, handmade crafts, and more.

#### Christiansburg Farmers Market

Thursdays; 3 – 7 p.m. Located in the Recreation Center parking lot. Features local farmers and vendors. Seasonal produce, plants, fresh baked goods, crafts, fresh flowers, handmade jewelry and more. Items for purchase vary week-to-week. Check our Facebook page for details about weekly themes, prizes, vendors, and live music.

#### Radford Farmers Market

Held on the grounds of Glencoe Mansion, Museum and Galley, located just off West Main Street, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. each Saturday until October 14. Features produce, plants, baked goods, artisans, fresh squeezed lemonade, eggs, meats, cheeses and more.

#### Free GED classes

New River Community College is offering free GED at the Meadowbrook Library every Monday and Tuesday through Tuesday, Dec. 12. For more information or to sign up please call the Library at 540-268-1964.

#### NRV Master Gardener Assoc. accepting grant applications for 2024

NRV Master Gardener Assoc., a volunteer organization of the Virginia Cooperative Extension, is accepting grant applications for 2024 gardening projects. Grants awarded based on merit to educational, care-giving or community organization seeking to educate, involve, and/or improve quality of life through a gardening-related project. Organizations in the counties of Floyd, Giles, Pulaski and Montgomery

(and towns within), and the City of Radford, are eligible. Applications must be electronically received (if emailed) or postmarked (if mailed through the USPS) by Oct. 15, 2023. Extra pages may be used for plan images/ illustrations. For more information and to submit your project application, contact Carol Trutt: [nrvmastergardenerassoc@gmail.com](mailto:nrvmastergardenerassoc@gmail.com) email is preferred or mail to Carol Trutt: 95 N Surry Circle, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

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# MONTGOMERY SPORTS

## Hokies still learning the art of winning

**Marty Gordon**  
*NRVsports@mainstreetnewspapers.com*

Virginia Tech Coach Brent Pry says his team is still learning the “Art of Winning” and needs to correct the details and communication.

But he told reporters this week there were a lot of positive things that came out of last week’s loss to Marshall.

“There has been every week, we need to build on those. There’s mistakes, there’s execution errors, there’s things we can do better as coaches,” he said. “We’ve got to minimize that and get better there. I think a sign of development of a player is minimizing weaknesses, building on strengths. We have to do that with our football team. To me, we keep searching for consistency for complementary football that generally is a path, a roadway to a win. And so that’s what we have to keep working towards. Because I think when we do put this all together, we can fall on the right side of things more often than in the losing column.”

Mastering all of those things and having a team that understands that and believes in those things, according to the first-year coach, is a key.

“That’s our job as coaches. We have to do better there. We have to keep investing there. Those are the differences in the teams and units that I’ve seen that are really good and the teams that are just below that line, that can’t quite get over the hump. There’s good signs all over our film and the weaknesses that are there, a lot of them are correctable. Some of its youth, some of its injury, but a lot of it’s very correctable.”

Today’s (Saturday, Sept 30) Pitt-Virginia Tech contest is slated to kickoff at 8 p.m.

Other game notes:

This weekend’s game will mark the 23rd meeting between Virginia Tech and Pitt. The series is deadlocked with each team boasting 11 wins and 11 losses.

Pitt has won three straight games against the Hokies, including four of the last five meetings. The two programs met 11 times as BIG EAST members between 1993 and 2003. They have also met 11 times as ACC foes.

The Panthers enter this week’s contest with a record of 1-3, beating Wofford (45-7) while losing to Cincinnati (27-21), West Virginia (17-6) and No. 17 North Carolina (41-24).

The Panthers have three players on the roster who call the Commonwealth of Virginia home, LB Jordan Bass (Hampton), RB Rodney Hampton (Norfolk) and OL Isaiah Montgomery



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VT FOOTBALL

(Virginia Beach).

Through Week 4 of the football season, the Tech defense is tied for first place in fourth down conversion percentage. Georgia Southern (0-for-3), Michigan (0-for-7), UAB (0-for-3) and Virginia Tech (0-for-3) defenses have not allowed a fourth down conversion this season.

The lunch pail defense also checks in at No. 2 for passing yards allowed. Opponents are 59-for-102 and 554 yards through four games this season. That puts the yards per game at 138.5, just half a yard behind Penn State in first place.

After missing the entire 2022 season due to injury, DL Pheldarius Payne made a big impact in the maroon and orange on Saturday afternoon. The Suffolk, Virginia, native claimed his first career sack as a Hokie late in the second quarter, which helped force a Marshall punt two plays later. Payne finished with his best outing of the season, amassing four total tackles and an additional half-sack following halftime, wrestling down the quarterback alongside teammate Mario Kendricks.

Over the first four weeks of the season, numerous true and redshirt freshmen have played snaps in-game. Following the contest in New Jersey, 17 players in that grouping have found themselves on the field in some capacity. The eight true freshmen to see the field so far in 2023 are LB George Ballance, STAR Caleb Woodson, STAR Antonio Cotman Jr., CB Dante Lovett, CB Braylon Johnson, S Mose Phillips, WR Ayden Greene, and WR Takye Heath. Greene has played in four games, recording three catches for 24 yards.

One pair of three sets of brothers currently on Tech’s roster, TE Benji Gosnell and WR Stephen Gosnell, accounted for more than half of the offense’s receiving yardage last Saturday. Benji recorded the Hokies’ longest reception of the game with a 22-yard reception on the team’s first possession of the second half. The younger of the two Gosnells, Benji, led the team with 52 receiving yards on four receptions. Benji now has eight receptions for 96 yards on the season. Looking at the senior wideout’s production, Stephen hauled in three passes for 32 yards, highlighted by an impressive one-handed grab to start the second half. Stephen has registered nine catches for 133 yards through four games this season. Combining their receiving yardage totals, the Gosnell brothers produced 84 of the 160 receiving yards on Saturday afternoon.

## Radford High new HOF class includes six inductees

Radford High School has announced six new inductees to the school’s sports hall of fame class. The group was unveiled this past week during a special ceremony at the Radford home football game.

The list includes:

Whitey Sloan (Class of 1961), who is lifelong resident and contributor to everything that makes up Bobcat Nation, represented our country in the Air Force, and is a proud veteran on this day.

Whitey’s wife Charlene graduated from RHS in 1962. Whitey’s younger brother Noel played on the Bobcat State Championship football teams of 1971 and 1972.

Whitey worked at the Lynchburg Foundry for approximately 38 years; however, this humble blue-collar man never let his tough day get in the way of coaching and helping Radford athletics.

Whitey coached “sandlot sports” for the Radford Recreation Department for more than 20 years, coaching generations of young kids in football, basketball, and baseball and also volunteered for years, making the extra effort to mark the RHS football field, as well as serving on the “chain gang” for every Bobcat home football game.

Jimmy Wall (Class of 1982) joins his older brother, Dick Wall, in the Bobcat Hall of Fame, and his accomplishments speak for themselves.

Jimmy started at quarterback early his sophomore year and solidified his time in the Bobcat record books over the next two-and-a-half years, setting the career school passing record from 1979-1981 with a total of 253 career completions on a then record 508 passing attempts.

In 1981, Jimmy set the then single season passing record in both yards and completions. Jimmy set the single game passing record in his final game as a Bobcat versus Narrows, completing 31 passes in 53 attempts. He was recognized by both the National Federation of High School Associations and the USA Today newspaper for his performance against Narrows.

Jimmy was also a star in both basketball and baseball as well.

A three-year starter at Point Guard for the Bobcats, he helped guide Radford to the Class AA State Final Four in Charlottesville his junior year.

In 1982, co-captain Jimmy Wall again led the Bobcats to a New River District Basketball title but lost a close contest to Marion in the Regional IV Final.

In baseball, Jimmy was a three-year letterman as an infielder for the Cats, Jimmy batted .362 his senior year and was selected to the New River All District team his senior year of 1982.

He is married to RHS graduate Amy Barta, the Radford couple now live in Winston-Salem, N.C., where they raised their seven children while also practicing law as well respected attorneys.

Casey Underwood (Class



FILE PHOTO

**Casey Underwood is one of several athletes chosen for this year’s RHS HOF class.**

of 1994) was an amazing athlete who excelled at everything he did.

In soccer, Casey lettered for the varsity soccer team each year he spent at Radford High School. He was a four-year letterman, earning All New River District every year he played for the Bobcats and was All Region IV and All State for his final three years playing for the Bobcats.

When Casey graduated, he was the all-time leading goal scorer at RHS, with an outstanding total of 61 goals.

In basketball, Casey was first Team New River District his senior year, leading the Bobcats to the New River District Championship.

In Football, Casey was named first Team New River District as both a punter and a kicker, named the first Team All-Region IV punter, as well as being named to the All-State team for his punting talents. He was named to the first Team New River District as a Defensive Back and to the second Team as Quarterback.

At the end of his senior year, Casey won the following RHS awards: Mickey Runion Award – the Bobcat Character Award; Paul Brown Award – as Outstanding Football Player and Tommy Edwards Award – for Best Male Athlete.

Casey has stayed in the New River Valley and is a legend to Hokie fans, as Casey is the Associate Athletics Director at Virginia Tech in charge of all Facility Maintenance and Capital Projects – which means he is the one who gets Lane Stadium’s field ready for game day, even when it pours rain like last Saturday.

Casey is married to Radford’s Cathy Underwood, who beat her husband to induction in the RHS Hall of Fame by four years.

Emily Nester Bunn (Class of 2000) had an amazing record for Bobcat tennis, as her overall record at RHS was 77 wins against only five losses, which means she won 94% of her matches.

Emily played tennis for RHS at an amazing time, as the team won three consecutive team state championships in 1998, 1999, and 2000.

Emily was first Team All-State in Class A in the year 2000, as her team won the title while she also won the girl’s individual state singles championship her senior year.

As you can guess, Emily was also on the girl’s state championship doubles team for Class A her senior year.

Her amazing tennis accomplishments led to her accomplishments

being featured in “Faces in the Crowd” in Sports Illustrated’s magazine that same year.

Dr. Meg Khandan-Barani Anton (Class of 2005) is the youngest female athlete ever elected to the Radford High School Hall of Fame. She was an outstanding athlete, excelling primarily in basketball and soccer.

Meg was a star Point Guard on the girls’ basketball team, culminating in the Bobcats winning the state championship in 2005.

But Meg’s ability on the soccer field is what set her apart from the others.

Meg was 1st team All District, All Region, and All State in soccer both her junior year in 2004 and her senior year in 2005.

Meg was named the girl’s Soccer player of the year for both the Three Rivers District and Region C in 2005.

Meg led the soccer team in 2005 to the state final against perennial power Clarke County. Meg scored a breakaway goal in the 48th minute to give the Bobcats a 2-0 lead, but the Lady Cats fell just short in the closing minutes, finishing state runner-up.

Meg was named the Roanoke Times’ 2005 Timesland Player of the Year in soccer, as well as being named to the Wendy’s Heisman list for female athletes in the state of Virginia.

A highly intelligent and well-rounded individual, Meg took her talents to VCU, where she played all four years of women’s soccer team.

Academically, Meg majored in biology and chemistry, graduating magna cum laude from VCU in 2009. Meg then went to medical school, completed her residency and fellowship, and is now a practicing pediatric emergency physician in Northern Virginia.

Former cross country Coach Mike Carrow has won more state titles than any coach in the history of Radford High School.

His record includes:

- 2007, Boys Cross Country State Title
- 2012, Boys Cross Country State Title
- 2013, Boys Cross Country State Title
- 2014, Girls Cross Country State Title
- 2015, Girls Cross Country State Title
- 2016, Girls Cross Country State Title
- 2019, girls cross country state title
- 2020 girls cross country state title.

*Radford News Journal/ News Messenger staff report*

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**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

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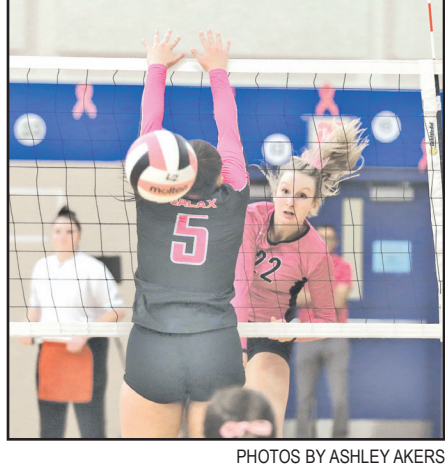
# Auburn wins three on Pink Night



Auburn High School celebrated Pink Night Tuesday night for the fight against breast cancer. The school honored former Galax volleyball coach Rose Houk (center) who is battling breast cancer.



Megan Earnest had 11 kills in the 25-14, 25-10, 25-15 win over Galax.



Gretchen Surface had 12 kills, one ace and 10 digs in the win for Auburn.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEY AKERS



Blacksburg's Katey Mathena (left) slams a volley towards Christiansburg's blockers Blythe Akers (center) and Blair Self (right). Blacksburg took the 25-11, 20-25, 25-17, 26-24 win in Tuesday's Battle of the Burgs.

## Blacksburg High downs Christiansburg in volleyball



Christiansburg's Katy Hoover goes high to a kill into the Blacksburg zone.

PHOTOS BY KYMN DAVIDSON-HAMLEY

**BONOMOS**

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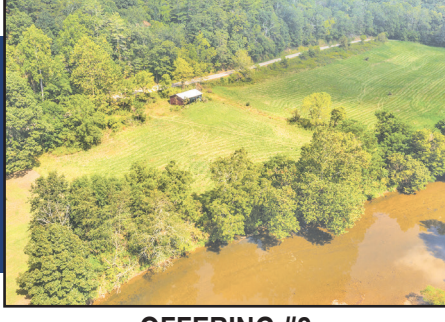
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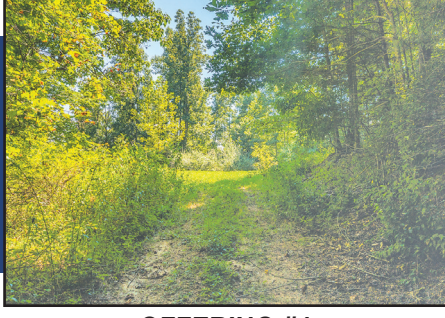
OFFERING #1



OFFERING #2



OFFERING #3



OFFERING #4

Discover the perfect blend of nature and tranquility in these 4 tracts of land that are being sold at auction. Located in a prime location near Floyd, Riner, Christiansburg, Blacksburg, and Radford VA, these properties offer the best of both worlds, the serenity of wooded land and a riverfront haven with easy access to the essential amenities.

**OFFERING #1** – +/- 6.015 ac  
This 6.015 acre cleared lot would be a prime building spot, especially for a recreational getaway. Property has been perked and awaits your new home! It features 600+ ft of frontage on the Little River. With easy access to the river, you can enjoy all the kayaking, fishing, and swimming you wish! Property also has +/- 735 ft of frontage on Laurel Ridge Mill Rd.

**OFFERING #2** – +/- 5.44 ac  
This 5.44 acre cleared lot would be a prime building spot. Property has been perked and awaits your new home or recreational getaway! It features 500+ ft of frontage on the Little River. With easy access to the river, you can enjoy all the kayaking, fishing, and swimming you wish! It also has +/- 507 ft of frontage on Laurel Ridge Mill Rd.

**OFFERING #3** – +/- 17.727 ac  
This 17.727 ac property boasts abundant woodland, which creates a serene and private environment. There are several building spots and the surrounding views of the countryside are unbeatable! Property would be ideal for the construction of your new home.

**OFFERING #4** – +/- 17.614 ac  
This 17.614 ac property boasts abundant woodland, which creates a serene and private environment. There is a small creek meandering throughout the property. The woodland ensures privacy and seclusion. Property holds several building spots and the surrounding views of the countryside are unbeatable! Property would be ideal for the construction of your new home. There is over +/- 771 ft of frontage on Laurel Ridge Mill Rd.

**Terms:** 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to final high bid to arrive at contract price. Earnest Money Deposit of \$10,000 per offering required on the day of the sale. Close on or before November 27th, 2023. Subject to seller confirmation. Property sold as is, where is with any and all faults. Buyer is expected to complete their own due diligence. Tracts are being offered individually and if bidder wishes to purchase multiple tracts, bidder will need to be the high/winning bidder on both offerings. Please note that during the last two minutes of bidding, if a new bid is placed, the clock is automatically extended an additional two minutes. Be sure to register to bid early to ensure you receive notifications regarding any changes to the Auction, Bidder Packet, and/or Pre-Auction offers received. Download Bidder Information Pack for complete terms and conditions, property information, purchase contract and maps at [VAAuctionPro.com](http://VAAuctionPro.com).

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For School Board District E

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OFFERING #1



OFFERING #2

Discover an exceptional real estate opportunity! We present 2 distinct tracts of land available for purchase through online auction. The properties are located along Route 460 between Blacksburg and Pembroke VA. Whether you are seeking a commercial venture or recreational escape, these properties have it all!

**OFFERING #1** – +/- 35 acres  
This offering boasts a generous 35 acres of all wooded land. Property provides a canvas for your vision and great visibility from Route 460. This spacious tract offers versatility for various land uses, from commercial development to recreational activities. Its proximity to the bustling community of Blacksburg makes it an enticing choice for businesses looking to be near Virginia Tech.

**OFFERING #2** – +/- 52.5 acres  
This offering boasts a remarkable 52.5 acre parcel of mostly wooded land. There is a small cleared section that fronts on Pandapas Pond Rd. Property has great visibility from Route 460. The wooded acreage provides privacy and tranquil environment. It adjoins the Jefferson National Forest. The property features a well, which provides suitability for various purposes, including potential commercial development or a secluded recreational retreat. There is a cellular tower on this offering. Refer to survey in Bidder Packet for exact location on easement to cell tower.

**CONTACT** – Auctioneer Matt Gallimore at 540-239-2585 or email [gallimore.matt@gmail.com](mailto:gallimore.matt@gmail.com). You can also contact Realtor Boogie DeHart at 276-952-5061 or email [boodied@yahoo.com](mailto:boodied@yahoo.com)

102 S. Locust Street, Floyd, VA 24091 (540) 745-2005 [VAAuctionPro.com](http://VAAuctionPro.com) Lic# 2907004059

**United Country Real Estate** | **Blue Ridge Land & Auction Co., Inc.**

DEA NATIONAL <sup>Rx</sup>

TAKEBACK



Turn in unneeded medication for safe disposal.

Saturday, October 28  
10 AM - 2 PM

CHRISTIANSBURG

Christiansburg Pharmacy  
470 N. Franklin Street  
Christiansburg

RADFORD

Radford City Police Dept.  
20 Robertson Street  
Radford

Keep them safe. Clean them out. Take them back.

Visit [DEATakeBack.com](https://DEATakeBack.com) for a collection site near you.



A message from  
New River Valley Community Services and  
the NRV's community prevention coalitions

To learn more,  
visit [nrvc.org/endoverdosenrv](https://nrvc.org/endoverdosenrv)

Carry naloxone | Stop the stigma | Save lives